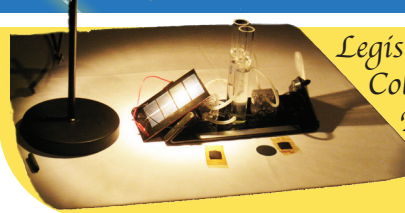


ORE THE DIGGER NEWSPAPER

Volume 89, Issue 16 February 9, 2009

Minds 
at Mines
and Valentine's Day
page 10



Legislature Day at
Colorado History
Museum
highlights
Mines - page 4

Beer Review: Warsteiner
Premium Dunkel

page 8

Campus Benefactor:
Simon Guggenheim

page 7



Provost candidate visits Mines

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

New Mexico State University has been transformed over the last several years. It changed from a state university with high acceptance rates, cheap tuition, and an easily obtained diploma to a university that has had a 30 percent increase in undergraduate population to 2200 students, a 100 percent increase in the graduate student population, a \$30 million budget, ABET accreditation, a greatly-increased retention rate, nine endowed professorships, and many new degrees and minors. Directly responsible for much of this improvement was Dean of Engineering, Dr. Steve Castillo.

Dr. Castillo came to the Colorado School of Mines to interview for the position of provost. He was on campus Thursday and Friday with a presentation on Thursday that provided students and faculty a glimpse into his academic background and accomplishments at NMSU in addition to his plans for the future of CSM if he were accepted for the position. Recalling his experience as an engineer and relating to the atmosphere at Mines, Castillo began, "If you want to change the world, go into engineering and science."

During the presentation Castillo provided an outline of the structure he would want to implement at Mines. The prominent theme was improving the national recognition of the school through various means such as faculty, new programs, and increased funding; "Excellence attracts excellence," he remarked. Emphasis was placed on the faculty in providing an excellent environment. "The leadership team should have strong, smart people; they should have good management and people skills... ultimately they have to be loyal to the institu-

tion," said Castillo. To achieve this task, superb young men and women and prominent faculty at highly ranked universities need to be hired. Although it would be a major economic investment, Castillo viewed this as a major initiative that he would undertake.

As a part of his plans to improve the educational structure at Mines, Castillo would like to "identify existing departments and degrees that are strategic, but don't yet have national stature and consider investments to them in the budgeting process." Another step in revitalizing the university would be to "consider related fields that will enhance the core mission including economics, entrepreneurship, public policy, arts, and education." Castillo said he realized that Mines has always been viewed as an engineering school but indicated that "department heads have to work to increase the diversity in the pool of applicants through non-traditional methods."

Attracting some of the greatest minds in the country was another goal Castillo listed as one of the most important aspects of attaining the standing of an exceptional university. "The ultimate measure of an institution's success can be measured by the success of its graduates and the impact of scholarly output," he acknowledged. While some argue that the professors and staff at a university are the key components to a successful institution, Castillo wanted it understood that the "administration guides the institution, but also serves the institution," mainly in the facet of



CHRISTOPHER FEHN / OREDIGGER

Dr. Steve Castillo offers his plans for Mines to a rapt audience.

developing qualified graduates.

When asked why he wanted the position, Castillo's responded, "Wherever I go, people have heard about the Colorado School of Mines." He explained that his dream is to aid in the rise of CSM as one of the top universities in the nation and to be a part of a culture that fosters academic excellence and promotes an atmosphere of limitless possibilities among its students and faculty. To help make his dream a reality he said that "annual evaluations should recognize all the ways the faculty contribute while emphasizing the strategic goals of CSM," which would reward achievements and fix areas that are in need of repair. Castillo's closed with, "This is a remarkable opportunity and I understand that you have some problems here but I am excited that you are considering me for this position."

ASCSM discusses plus/minus system compromises

Zachary Boerner
Copy Editor

Despite the influx of messages on the ASCSM message board and numerous announcements, the February 5 meeting was still poorly attended. The meeting began with announcements that ASCSM elections would be held within the next few weeks, to be held on March 30 and 31, tentatively. Then, the progress on the plus/minus grading system and the compromise meeting that was held recently between faculty and student representatives was discussed.

"For the better part of the first forty-five minutes of this meeting, every suggestion, every argument, every idea that the three of us offered... essentially the faculty summarily dismissed it," Kevin Duffy, president of ASCSM said. He continued, "Every idea was said, 'We already considered this two years ago, and it was nonsense...'" The compromise meeting, which ran over the allotted time, finally began to make some headway after the faculty stopped trying to "preach from above that this policy is going to happen," according to Duffy. The faculty began offering some compromises, which "are by no means ideal... The exciting thing is that the faculty went from in November being ready to vote this policy in to at least being willing to sit down with students this week," Duffy finished.

The first compromise would be that the faculty would wait a year before enacting the plus/minus grading policy. Currently, ASCSM is trying to push that to two years. Anant Pradhan said, "We need you to start talking to your constituents... we need as much feedback as possible on what they think about this... And more importantly, start talking to your faculty members about what your opinions on the policy is, because they don't know that we're upset. Chet [Van Tyne] was surprised that we were upset about this." The second compromise is removing the D-, D+, and C- grades from the scale, which would even out the lower end and allow eligibility because it would keep grades at or above a 2.0.

The next announcement was that ASCSM had been given control of the mailing lists and was debating whether or not to make it a standing ASCSM duty to monitor and

administrate the lists. "There's a lot of administrative work... I don't really know where that's going, yet," Duffy said.

He then continued to the capital construction fee, which was voted to be ramped up over six semesters to provide \$30 million over 30 years. Most of the funds would go to a Brown building addition or rebuilding, doubling the current square footage. However, there was a problem committee that would be in charge of the new building. A resolution passed by the committee stated that the committee would be comprised of a majority of students. But Terry Parker, the Engineering Division Director, placed four engineering students on the committee without consulting with ASCSM. Because other departments also share the building, ASCSM feels that there should be a more varied student representation on the committee, or at least someone that can report back to ASCSM.

Finally, Duffy mentioned the Intermodal Transport Fee, on which a vote will be held on March 5. The vote will mainly deal with what the fee will be used for and how it will be handled in the future. The fee is currently being used for the RTD bus passes issued to each student.

Other news that was mentioned was that the new campus marquee, which had originally

been planned for the location outside of Meyer, is currently looking for a new home due to certain campus regulations, but Derek Morgan is working on the problem and hopes to have it up soon.

Also, the much-needed parking garage has a location planned. The proposed location would be between the freshman parking lot and the facilities management building, near the geology museum.

After announcements, the discussion was opened to the public. Ashley Young, an undergrad student, raised the first few questions.

"Why is the reason that they want to implement the system?" Young asked. "The faculty wants to implement it for a number of reasons, primarily because it increases the resolution of the grading scale," Duffy replied. "In their mind, they're really doing it for us," Pradhan added.

SEE DEBATE ON PAGE 3

MAC announces 75th annual E-Days theme

Courtesy Mines Activity Council

The Mines Activity Council is pleased to announce the 75th Annual Engineering-Days on April 2-4, 2009! It is with great excitement that we reveal this year's theme: "Diamond AnniversaryE-Days: Off the Books and on the Rocks!"

Many of the favorite events of

years past will return, including the E-Days Fireworks Show, the E-Days Orecart Pull, the E-Days Concert, the cardboard boat race and trebuchet competition, and more! This year's E-Days will feature some additional, exciting events as well, some old and some new! One such event is the E-Days Beard Competition. For those ramblin', dynamitin', engineers wishing to participate, sign

up at the booth near the Student Center today or in the Student Activities office by Feb. 19th!

Keep your eyes and ears open for more details about the fantastic events coming this year with the 2009, 75th Annual E-Days!



NEWS - 2

-WORLD HEADLINES
-SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

FEATURES - 5

-MEP
-TECH BREAK

OPINION - 10

-CULTURAL DIVERSITIES
-PRINCIPALLY IRKED

SPORTS - 11

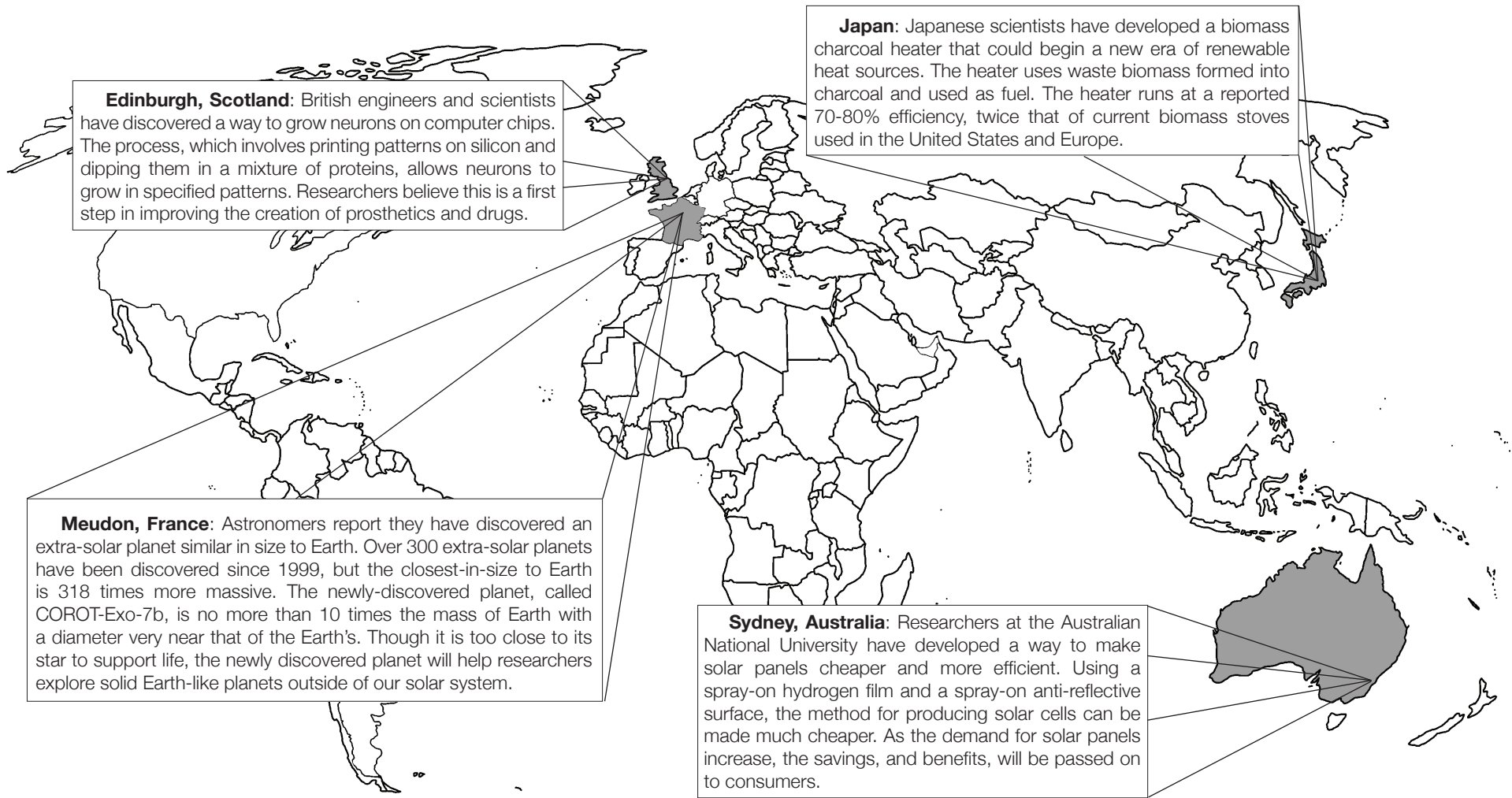
-SUPERBOWL RECAP
-NEVADAVILLE

SATIRE - 12

-+/- ABANDONED
-STUDENTS REJOICE

Scientific discoveries this week

Patrick Beseda, Staff Writer



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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Nadya Suleman's fertility expert is under investigation after his patient delivered octuplets last week after receiving fertility treatments. The woman now has **fourteen children**.

Kellogg's decided to drop its endorsement deal with champion swimmer **Michael Phelps** after he was photographed inhaling from a bong last week. Phelps has also been suspended from competitive swimming for three months.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg underwent surgery Thursday to remove a tumor. The pancreatic cancer tumor was found during a CT scan in late January and was reported to be in its early stages.

A **Texas judge** reversed the conviction of rape for Timothy Cole, who was sentenced in 1986, as **DNA evidence** proved his innocence. Cole died in jail in 1999 after refusing to admit to the rape.

China is suffering through its worst **drought** in the last 50 years, with many areas not seeing rain for 100 days. The Chinese government has released over \$55 million to the emergency relief fund.

Former Halliburton subsidiary KBR was charged with bribing the **Nigerian government** with billions of dollars in contracts. KBR separated from its parent company Halliburton in 2007.

The **United States Senate** debated Friday night about the large **economic recovery plan**, choosing to vote on the package on Monday after removing billions of dollars from the bill.

The **Food and Drug Admin-**

istration has discovered that a Georgia peanut company responsible for a recent **salmonella** outbreak knowingly released products that contained salmonella after a poor-quality test returned negative.

Ban Ki-moon, the **United Nations Secretary-General** visited **Baghdad** and praised the recent Iraqi-led election.

Italian government officials adopted a decree that may prevent doctors from removing a feeding tube from Eluana Englaro, a woman who has been in a **comatose** state for 17 years.

Labor authorities in

India rescued 18 children during **raids of embroidery units**. It is illegal to employ children less than the age of 14 in India, and the employers will be prosecuted.

Toyota announced that its revenue in the third quarter fell by **28 percent** from the previous year. The company estimates that this has made for a loss of over \$1.8 billion.

An earthquake of magnitude **5.5 on the Richter scale** rocked coastal areas of **Chile**, hitting just before midnight on Thursday.

Despite

a rapid increase in **fraud** on its website, **Facebook** reported that fewer than one percent of its 150 million users have been affected by scams.

Deadly bush fires are still sweeping across 3000 square km of southeastern **Australia**. 108 people have died as of Sunday.

The Israeli military reported that **Palestinian militants fired two rockets** at southern Israel Sunday. Israel and the Gaza Strip's government are still negotiating a long-term cease-fire.



Debate rages on Biology through physics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Also, by implementing the system, it would bring the undergraduate classes in line with the graduate class, which already has a plus/minus grading system.

Young then asked when the next compromise meeting between students and faculty is. The meeting date and time has not been set, although an informative faculty meeting is being held this Tuesday at 2:30 PM in Hill Hall, room 300.

Young asked three more questions, clarifying the point about it being voluntary for the professors to implement the system, which was affirmed. She also wondered whether there was a mediator at the meeting, since it appeared that the students had been ignored at the last one for the better part of the meeting. Pradhan and Duffy were quick to defend the fact that there was not a mediator at the meeting due to the fact that Dr. McKinnon performed the duty, calling back both sides from digging completely into the other. Finally, Young wondered about the Registrar's position in all of this. Duffy responded that, as the Registrar put forth, "It's their job to administrate the policy of the institution." Duffy continued that it's, "limited by the Banner system and what it can do."

Young finished with a comment that because of the plus/minus

grading system bringing down the upper echelon of grades, it would hurt eligibility for scholarships.

Following Young, another student asked about how many of the proposed compromises are limited by the Banner system. The response was that much of it was because of the system. Due to the way it is set up, and the fact that the system is meant to be as cookie-cutter as possible for different schools, it's not as customizable as the campus might like.

Finally, two resolutions were brought forth to ASCSM. The first was a revised version of resolution 2009.1. The new resolution, 2009.2, would require at least three representatives from ASCSM at every faculty senate meeting to report back to ASCSM about the meetings and discussions. Following a short discussion, a vote was passed, with all but one present voting for the resolution.

The second resolution, 2009.3, was a formal statement by ASCSM stating that they supported AC&N in moving to a G-mail based e-mail system. The only question raised was about the legality issues still facing AC&N, but was silenced because the resolution merely shows support, and that other schools have done the same thing, so there is a legal precedence. The measure was then voted on, passing with no opposing votes.

Spencer Nelson
Content Manager

"Things are moving at very different length scales and very different time scales," Dr. Ralph Jimenez explained about molecular and atomic movement. With many important movements occurring in the time periods that make seconds seem like an eternity, advanced techniques must be used to study them. Jimenez compared the time scale in measuring molecular physics with traditional methods to "giving someone a stopwatch and telling them to do geology." Jimenez has been working on several methods in advancing measurement practices at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA). He came to Mines this last Tuesday to present some of his work.

Presented to a group of roughly 60 people, last week's Physics Colloquium entitled "Molecular Biophysics with Femtosecond Lasers: Four-Wave Mixing Techniques for Measuring Protein Dynamics" gave a brief view on improvements in spectroscopy brought about by ultrafast techniques. For a reference point, 1 femtosecond is 10^{-15} seconds. There are as many femtoseconds in 1 second as there are seconds in 31.7 million years.

"What makes a biological molecule different than just a collection of atoms?" asked Jimenez. "What is it that biological molecules can

do that's special?" A large part of Jimenez's research consists of the fundamental protein reactions that are necessary for life. One of the crucial methods for studying these reactions is spectroscopy. However, since traditional spectroscopy requires a large amount of time, this required faster methods, leading to the use of femtosecond lasers. "You use a pulse of light [to excite the protein]," stated Jimenez about how spectroscopy works. "The protein is no longer at equilibrium at this point, so it has to relax. The relaxation process itself - the amplitude and time scale of the relaxation - tell you the flexibility of the system, related to the spectra of motion."

The information found from spectroscopy has many uses. A prominent study is found in immunology. "An immune system is basically a very fancy feedback loop," said Jimenez. When a virus is detected, several different antibodies are released to combat the virus. The antibodies "tag" the virus, marking them for destruction by other proteins. The first group of antibodies, referred to as the "germ line," goes out, but typically fails to tag the virus. The failed antibodies return to the immune system and are mutated in ways that more adequately bind to the viruses. Eventually, the feedback loop determines the efficient antibody and mass-produces it to eliminate the

virus. Femtosecond laser spectroscopy becomes a useful tool here because of its ability to determine the shapes and structures of the antibodies. These studies can allow researchers to find how the immune system adapts the antibodies, and have a better understanding of how the immune systems works. The hope is that new, better medicines can be developed to correspond better with the immune system.

Dr. Jimenez earned his undergraduate degree at Cornell University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at University of Chicago. He has since been a post-doctoral fellow at the California University at San Diego and a Senior Research Assistant at Scripps Research Institute. He does research with members of several research facilities and universities, including Mines's own Dr. David Marr of the Chemical Engineering Department, whom Jimenez speculated was "the sole chemical engineer in the room." Jimenez continues his research today as a member of JILA at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Next week's Physics Colloquium is on the topic "Electronic Structure Theory and Computation for Actinide Elements and Compounds," presented by Dr. John Willis from Los Alamos National Laboratory. This free, public lecture will be held at 4 PM on Tuesday, February 13, in Meyer Hall 220.

City council talks transit

Zachary Boerner
Copy Editor

Relegated to the back of the Student Center, OV Consulting came to talk to the campus and the community at large concerning the feasibility of completely redoing the Golden transit system.

Beth Vogelsang, who works for OV consulting, led the discussion, asking for input into what the students and assembled community would want in a new transportation system or plan. The things that they wanted to know were "destinations, where you want to go, where you're coming from, or how you're using something."

After a brief presentation outlining the steps of the study, the rest of the meeting was then devoted to a discussion, mainly by the students assembled, on how they use the current RTD bus

passes, how they would like it improved, and what they would like to see in a new system.

One of the main points that was raised was whether the system would connect to the Denver Lightrail system. The Lightrail system is being extended from Denver out to the Jefferson County building, and students suggested some form of transport from campus to and from the Lightrail extension.

Also, students mentioned some sort of transport across 6th up to the Apartments at Mines Park. This was appended with a mention of having some sort of transport go up and down South Golden Road, which, after a point, ceases to have bike-friendly trails. Whatever transit traveling along that route would also go to Colorado Mills, as that was a major destination point for the assembled audience.

Another concern raised was

the ability of the new transit system to accommodate bikes, since many people in Golden use bikes to travel around town, and having the ability to bring your bike on a bus would be a major plus for many riders.

At the end of the discussion, the main point that came through from the audience was that they wanted more destinations that they actually went to and routes that went from point A to point B without stopping at all the other points in-between. Vogelsang mentioned that there was a survey online that could be filled out by anyone at www.goldentransitproject.com, and that getting anyone and everyone to fill it out would be greatly appreciated.

OV Consulting hopes to be back in late Spring, before finals, to present routes and ideas that they have come up with for a system based on the ideas that were presented at the meeting.



Students discuss transit options.

DEIDER BARRICK / OREDIGGER

Ace-Hi holds competition

Wanted guest bartenders at the Ace-Hi Tavern!

No experience necessary, sign up with any of our bartenders on duty. Come down and live the dream, feel the sense of power behind the bar. Get your claim to fame right here in front of all your friends cheering you on. You will receive a couple of free drinks for your efforts and we will track your sales, whichever guest rings the most during their hour will receive the grand prize \$50 bar tab and Ace-Hi apparel. We ask that our guests must bring 5 or more of their very thirsty

friends. Participant must be sober, guest bartenders will not be handling any money transactions not to worry about prices, just have fun behind the bar. The real bartender will be there with you helping you out. We will be hosting School of Mines guest bartender nights on Sunday nights at 7 PM throughout the month of February and March. So come down and sign up and be Golden's next celebrity bartender.

Coming soon! Ace-Hi new bar menu serving late night food.

Watch for our Nascar parties and new promotions coming up!

The 11th Annual

SKI-A-THON

March 1st, 2009

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SKI AREA
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To purchase a package or for any other questions/donations,
please contact Jason Noelck: jnoelck@mines.edu

Local couple spreads word on aid

Polyelectrolytic gels fight cancer

Sarah Nelson
Staff Writer

With a simple, absent-minded flick of the wrist, pure, clean water shoots forth from the kitchen tap. And within a short radius of where you sit, a water fountain, a bathroom sink, a cooler, or even a Nalgene can most likely be found, each a readily available source of clean water. This abundance of such an essential commodity can make it easy to forget that not everyone is so fortunate.

In his lecture addressing the challenges of providing clean water in underdeveloped countries, Aaron Walling immediately plunges the audience into this realization, stating somberly that, "One and a half million children die each year due to water borne illnesses," and that, "of the 1.1 billion people that lack access to a clean water supply, 220 million live in poor urban communities." The reality of these numbers was explicitly felt in the room and continued to permeate the atmosphere throughout the lecture.

Fortunately, an organization called Healing Waters International, the group Walling represents, has the strength and determination not to be dissuaded by such a hopeless number, but rather appears to be fueled by the severity of this need.

Healing Waters International is a non-profit organization whose mission includes, in the words of Aaron Walling, "Providing sustainable, safe water solutions to those who need it." The seed of Healing Waters International sprung from the Lookout Mountain Community Church with a member and engineer, Steve Willner, working in conjunction with missionaries Tom and Dana Larson. Tom

and Dana Larson had served in the Dominican Republic and witnessed first hand the devastation wrought by unsanitary water. Together, they were able to install in the community of La Victoria, Dominican Republic, a facility that could provide people with clean water. Thus began the organization that, since 2002, has planted 77 sustainable projects in three countries: Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. These projects are how Healing Waters quenches the thirst of 110,000 people daily with clean, safe water.

Providing someone with clean water appears to be a simple, attainable endeavor, but as Walling explains, "Corrupt, frustrating government regulations make the process more complex." For example, in their first project, people carried empty Crisco cans and paint buckets to fill with the clean water, and now, government regulations in Mexico require a wall to separate the bucket cleaning station from the bucket filling station.

From a different vantage, difficulties can also be born on the side of the people being served in the realm of "plain taste preference," where locals will prefer the taste of spring water that is contaminated and continue to drink it even after the endeavors of an education campaign. In spite of it all, Healing Waters perseveres and grows.

Concluding the lecture, Aaron Walling invited the attendees to take a bracelet made by the women in one of the Healing Waters communities in Mexico and encouraged anyone who wanted to get involved to check out H2OATH.org or the Healing Waters International Facebook Group.



COURTESY AARON WALLING

We take clean water for granted, but many countries struggle to attain even such a basic need.

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Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

What is a polyelectrolyte? To begin, polyelectrolytes are polymers that have the tendency to shift charges and ionize when dissolved. The specific characteristics of these compounds have led to applications from cosmetics and food to oil-drilling and drug-delivery. As part of the Shell seminar series, Dr. Yakov Lapitsky, of the University of Toronto, came to Mines last week to share his recent research in the field of polyelectrolytes.

As Lapitsky began his presentation, he recognized that polyelectrolytes, though useful, are not well understood. "Despite the broad utility of these materials," said Lapitsky, "many of their applications suffer from poor understanding of the parameters that control their physical-chemical properties."

Lapitsky continued by mapping out a plan for understanding polyelectrolytes and finding useful applications. "At the molecular level, we are interested in the strength of molecular interactions," said Lapitsky, "we would also like to know where these systems want to go because of these interactions and how they get where they go. Finally, we want to know what we can do with these materials." Two case studies from Lapitsky's research with polyelectrolyte gel structures were used to highlight the theory and application of such structures in the field of medicine.

Basically, Lapitsky has been working to create gel beads in various states, from hollow to entirely solid. The various morphologies of these structures can be controlled via different polymer to surfactant ratios. "To summarize, we saw that we could

exploit the mixtures of charged surfactants and polyelectrolytes to form a variety of ordered gel phases whose stability depends on the equilibrium phase behavior and structure depends on the gelation kinetics and can be adjusted by varying the compositions used in their preparation."

On the application front, Lapitsky described a set-up that integrates antibodies and polyelectrolyte nanoparticles. As he closed, Lapitsky said, "We've been able to develop a quantitative guideline for changing the binding of these nanoparticles to cancer cells where the experimental results correlate very well with our model predictions. And by varying the number of conjugate antibodies on the particle surface, we've been able to increase the binding strength of the nanoparticle by up to an order of magnitude above that of a single free antibody."

Mines shows off research at Colorado History Museum

Alec Westerman
Staff Writer

Amy Dubetz, organizer, said of this year's Legislature Day (L-Day), "I was really excited about the legislator turnout. I think we had fifteen to twenty... It was neat to see all the research."

L-Day is an opportunity for legislators to keep informed as to what is going on at Mines. Student and faculty members belonging to various campus groups set up posters and discussed the projects in which they are involved with the law-makers. Members of ASCSM were also in attendance so as to bring up relevant topics with the legislators.

Three members of the Mines Eco Marathon team attended, bringing the car their team had built with them. The objective of the Eco Marathon team and the Shell Echo Marathon Competition is to build the most fuel efficient car they can. The Mines team's car averaged an impressive 679.4 miles per gallon, putting them in sixth place in the internal combustion field of the competition. The first place team (Mater Dei High School in Indiana) averaged 2880 miles per gallon. The Mines team, however, alleged that the first place car used wind and that the rules were, as a result, being adjusted. In response to why they joined this project over

another, team member Jake Hogan spoke out, saying "Most mechanical engineers love cars."

Blue Key came to communicate to law makers how they have improved the M's efficiency. Converting it to LEDs, they told legislators, is a first step toward sustainability. According to Brad Bettag, 30 acres of solar panels were necessary to power the M before the conversion, whereas the LED's require only 30 yards. Ashley Young commented, "One of my favorite parts is that it helped the community." She went on to describe how even the old lights didn't go to waste but were sold and the revenues sent to Colorado Energy Outreach.

Also in attendance was the Advanced Biodetection Technology Laboratory, which presented research on bioweapons detectors. Chris Cox explained that Mines is involved in making better detectors. "Current detectors rely on complex chemistry," he explained, while the Advanced Biodetection Technology Laboratory is employing bacteria infected with viruses. Each time the virus multiplies, a larger number of viruses is observable in the bacteria. This results in an accurate, less expensive, and more compact test.

Roberta Martinez Herdandez came to L-Day representing the Humanitarian Engineering Program. She focused on a project based

in Honduras in which she participated. "We worked on designing a prototype water treatment system...built for less than \$36USD." She went on to explain how much of a difference that system made in people's lives.

Neil Sullivan spoke on behalf of the Colorado Fuel Cell Center. He explained that the fuel cell center "partners with companies to tackle scientific problems." He further explained that the center served to help students interested in fuel cells integrate into the work force. He said that they were "training a work force that'll beat the competition." The three main focuses of the Colorado Fuel Cell Center, Sullivan indicated, are research, partnerships, and education.

Also attending L-Day were the Colorado Center for Biofuels (CCB), the Center for Hydrate Research (CHR), and Mines groups focused on CO₂. The CCB focuses on the elimination of undesired materials from biofuels. CHR focuses on removing hydrates from oil flows, so as to not block oil pipelines, as well as using these hydrates as combustible fuels and hydrogen fuel cells. The CO₂-related presenters spoke on a number of topics, including renewable energy in materials science, CO₂ sequestration, and change in the Earth's climate through time.

Dr. Neal Sullivan explains fuel cells to an interested audience.

ALEC WESTERMAN / OREDIGGER

WWW.OREDIGGER.NET

Geek of the Week

...Breian Wells, Sophomore: Mathematics

Kristin Chuchwa
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you think you're a geek?

[Wells] Yes. Otherwise, would I listen to the "Geeks get the Girl" by American Hi-Fi all of the time?

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I do mathematical proofs in my sleep. My roommate can confirm this. I also downhill ski and run. I like to think about math when I run.

Where are your favorite places to ski?

Copper [Mountain] is probably my favorite.

Do you have a favorite restaurant?

My favorite place is a back country restaurant called the Tennessee Pass Cookhouse. To get there you have to [cross country] ski up 500 feet in a mile. It's a five-star restaurant where you get to eat in your ski clothes. You get to ski back down when you're done with a head lamp. It's really amazing.

What is your favorite movie?

Coolrunnings. The guy with the lucky egg is hilarious.

Would you ever bobsled if you got the chance?

Hell yeah.
Is there a TV show that you really like?

Numbers.
Do you have a favorite formula?

$e^{\pi(i)}$
Do you have a favorite geeky pickup line?

COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Breian's favorite restaurant requires a headlamp in order for customers to leave safely.

Babe, I wish I was a second derivative so I could explore your concavities.

If you could make up a new

class for CSM what would it be?

It would be dating for dummies. We could use that here.

Any advice for students at Mines?

Get involved in campus organizations. The support they offer really helps you make it through school.

Favorite quote?
SELECT *

FROM
users
WHERE
clue>0

0 rows returned

What's your favorite memory of your time at mines so far?

Most of my time here has been good. I have really enjoyed it so far.

What is your favorite class you have taken here?

I would say it has to be Complex Analysis. It's all about doing integrations and derivatives on complex planes.

Faculty spotlight: Dr. Tom Furtak

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

The Colorado School of Mines is privileged to have many faculty members that are dedicated to, and passionate about, the school and its students. One such faculty member can be found balancing budgets and organizing the Physics Department operations on the third floor of Meyer Hall. Dr. Tom Furtak has been at the School of Mines for more than 20 years and recently assumed the position of Head of the Physics Department.

"It's a terrific place, it really makes the job fun and interesting," Furtak said of the school. "Something that I tell parents is that the academic environment is defined by the students. The students here have such an intellectual interest and professionalism about them. They are really driven and they demand good teaching. They are really top notch."

Dr. Furtak dedicates a portion of his time at Mines to researching ways to increase the efficiency of

polymer solar cells. Collaborating with Dr. Reuben Collins, Furtak leads a group of design students who are working on, and solving, real projects. "I mostly work in the interface between physics and chemistry," said Furtak. One of Dr. Furtak's hopes for the near future is the construction of a new physics building. Budgeting issues have delayed the goal, but it is something he can see happening in the next few years.

When he's not in the lab or teaching, one could probably find Furtak skiing underneath the Challenger lift at Mary Jane. In his spare time, he's also a very diverse musician and plays the gui-

tar weekly for a church band. "My dream job would be to be in band that does weekend gigs. We'd play a lot of rock and pop."

Furtak gives a piece of hard earned advice to students at the Colorado School of Mines. He said, "Sometimes students get too involved in just doing their homework and studying for exams and they don't always recognize the opportunity in front of them. They need to step back and take a look at the overall growth process. There's more to it than this mechanistic 'getting things done' mode. They will have a more effective, enjoyable and meaningful experience if they can grasp this."



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

After 20 years, MEP still alleviates suffering

Michael Holzmeister
Staff Writer

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP) is home to the Colorado School of Mines chapters of four societies of minority engineers and scientists. The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Professional Asian Society of Engineers and Scientists (PASES), and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) all have chapters at the MEP.

"It will help you make friends who will help you survive at this school," Filmon Habtemichael said about the MEP. For the last twenty years, the Minority Engineering Program at Mines has helped students endure the academic suffering inflicted on everyone while giving those who are not mainstream Americans help in adjusting to a new and foreign culture.

Habtemichael is from Eritrea, and he is likely the lone Tigrinya speaker in Golden. He could not name another person he could

MEP gave him a place where he could be around people who shared more in common than just being college freshmen.

its members," the group's bylaws state. PASES, founded by Mines students, will hold officers elections at its general meeting on Feb. 23 at noon in BE 243.

SPHE student members can receive "Professional development and leadership training to give students a competitive advantage upon graduation" as well as "networking opportunities with high profile professionals, fellow students, corporate representatives," according to official information obtained by the *Oredigger*. Also, members receive free subscriptions to Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and Hispanic Business magazines. SHPE will hold a general meeting on February 20 in BE 106.

Expecting to graduate this spring, Habtemichael explained that once he arrived at Mines the MEP gave him a place where he could be around people who shared more in common than just being college freshmen. In his first two years, he relied on the MEP to give him a sense of belonging. Now he is part of the Petroleum Engineering community, but

Habtemichael is still active in the MEP. He also serves as president of the

Mines chapter of NSBE.

Fittingly, the MEP is run by a man who started school at Mines the same year the MEP was established, Khanh Vu, who earned his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1993.

"I know how hard it can be," Vu said of being tossed into a place where one's own people are few and far between. The MEP is a bridge leading into the Mines culture, he said.

Vu spends a lot of energy convincing students to stick with their Mines education. He recalled one student who had posted a 3.5 GPA in his first semester, but was pretty certain that he would be better off quitting school and taking a job rather than taking on debt. Vu got the young man to look past his immediate future and remain a student, even if he did have to borrow some money.

One of Vu's main goals is to keep the MEP welcoming and comfortable for minority students. "We give them a home away from home," he said.

The MEP is multilingual. Spanish, Chinese, French, and, if Habtemichael is talking to himself, Tigrinya can all be heard done the hallway.

John Akinboyewa, who is from Lagos, Nigeria, was enjoying the MEP's home-like feel last week. "It gives me a place to stand around on a Tuesday afternoon," Akinboyewa said. "The MEP is a good place for students to shut their books, open up themselves a little, and develop a measure of social life," he added.

Perhaps best known for its ethnic food sales, the MEP house is located at 1112 18th Street and can be contacted at (303) 273-3021. Everyone is welcome at the MEP. "We enjoy people who are open-minded," Vu said.

TECH BREAK

Behind the scenes

Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

Correction: In last week's Tech Break column, I stated that Windows XP could be had for free from AC&N. This statement was based on erroneous information. For more clarification on this point, please see the online version of the article "Don't Immobilize, Virtualize!"

Ever wondered what it's like to be behind the scenes, actually working at *The Oredigger*? Ever been there to find out? If you answered "yes" to the first question but "no" to the second, then read on... if you're wondering about the tech behind the paper, it's all right here...

Article Submission is done via e-mail, from writer to content manager, then from content manager through the Editorial Board to layout. There's nothing much to say here yet; everyone generally uses their own computers for these first few stages of the process. If a writer needs a voice recorder, *The Oredigger* has a few, though the flash-based recorders (read: inexpensive MP3 players) have vanished. One notable fact - we forward our e-mail to Gmail and have authorized our account to send mail directly via our Mines address. When you've got dozens of e-mails coming in per day with rather large attachments, Gmail is a must-have.

Once the articles make it into the office, they're generally **edited** on one of our older machines, Gateway E-series PCs running Windows XP with Microsoft Office 2003. An HP LaserJet sits in the corner for hard

copies of non-paper materials; the papers themselves are printed elsewhere. There are five Gateway computers in all, four for high-level paper officers, one for serving paper files and dealing with business records. The business PC has an LCD monitor; the others have CRTs. Another thing to note: CRTs still have better color reproduction, especially for darker hues, than entry-level LCDs, and this was only truer when the Gateways were bought.

Fast-forward the present day and the **layout** process. This task is handled by four high-end (at the time... and still, for that matter) 24" iMacs. The vast screen real estate is great for editing full newspaper spreads, and the computers themselves are fast enough to get the job done quickly, something of great importance when you're working Sunday afternoon and evening to release a Monday issue. The computers are all equipped with Adobe's Creative Suite 4 with InDesign CS4 and Photoshop CS4 being the most-used elements of the suite. The Gateway computers also have Creative Suite installed. However, the version is old enough that if layout needs to be done, it must be done on the Macs. The iMacs are also equipped with Microsoft Office 2008, though most document editing is done on the PCs to keep the Macs free for design, where every inch of the 24" widescreen displays counts. The PCs have Microsoft's plugin for importing the new Office 2007 .docx format. It's free and saves a lot of potential headaches

derived from running Office 2003 on the systems.

The **web** operation of *The Oredigger* is currently in a state of flux. We were going to use a Mac mini, which was one of the two that formerly served as a design computer for the *Prospector* yearbook. However, hosting websites on-campus is more trouble than it's worth for an operation like *The Oredigger*, so the Mac mini, which now runs Fedora Linux, will be the new home of *The Oredigger*'s files. Instead of an on-campus server and subsequent to our current Viacom/MTV-powered setup (CollegePublisher), we'll be renting hosting from MDDHosting for our web presence. While the company's hosting packages aren't terribly generous in bandwidth and disk space, server response times are fast, and the server location is such that Colorado locations are only a few dozen milliseconds away. Our new platform will be WordPress MU for blogs (e.g. minesblog.com/techbreak) and Joomla for the rest of the paper.

The above is what *The Oredigger* runs on from a tech perspective, though knowledgeable people are needed to run the setup. Fortunately, we have those too. In fact, I happen to be one of them. Still, technology, whether it runs Linux, Windows or OS X, makes everyone's job at *The Oredigger* a whole lot easier.

(Ed note: If you'd like to know more about how *The Oredigger* works, feel free to e-mail us at oredig@mines.edu.)

Beta raises awareness for helmet safety

Keegan Whisler
Staff Writer

Beta Theta Pi would like to invite School of Mines' students and friends to the Eleventh Annual Ski-A-Thon. This event is on its way to becoming a Mines tradition and will take place March 1 at the Loveland Ski Area. The goal of Ski-A-Thon is to spread the importance and benefits of helmet safety, and has succeeded in increasing helmet usage at ski resorts along the Front Range by 25 percent. However, that is not Ski-A-Thon's only achievement. This event has become so big that to date over \$48,000 in donations have been raised for the St. Anthony's Inter-mountain Neurosurgeon

Helmet Donor Program. Beta Theta Pi has used this event to donate 3500 helmets to 36 Christy Sports rental stores and given complimentary helmets to ski instructors and ski patrol members at almost every Front Range ski resort.

The actual event will feature fun in the snow at Loveland and a chance to get event memorabilia and win prizes. There will be a "Mountain Raffle" for all participants, with prizes including Dakine Hats and Gloves, Armada

Gear, DNA Coats, Smith Helmets, and gift cards to local Golden hot spots like Old Capitol Grill, Golden Sweets, ACE-Hi Tavern, and Woody's Wood Fired Pizza. On the mountain, additional raffle tickets may be purchased for \$1 each.

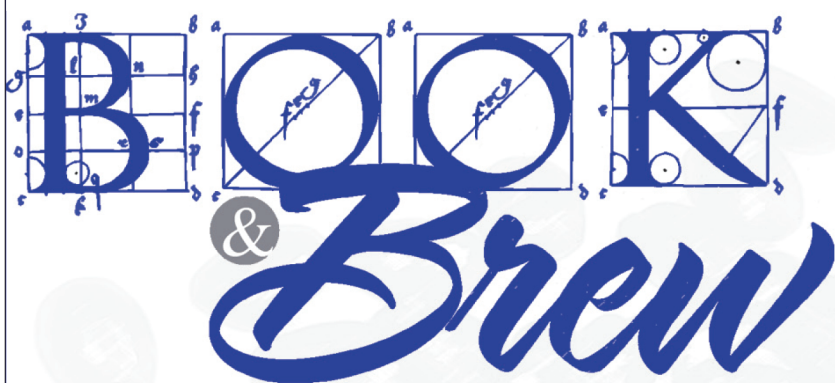
There will also be a silent auction for jewelry, autographed memorabilia and a pair of skis. There will also be mugs, pilsner glasses, and Ski-A-Thon gear from past events. As a bonus anyone attending the Ski-A-Thon event can receive \$12 rentals for a full set up to go ski Loveland. Rockstar energy drinks has donated \$750 in Rockstar energy drinks

The goal of Ski-A-Thon is to spread the importance and benefits to helmet safety, and has succeeded in increasing helmet usage at ski resorts along the Front Range by 25 percent.

to be distributed to attendees. 103.5 The Fox will be broadcasting their show from Loveland alongside the event.

To purchase a package to attend this event, go to the table in the Student Center this month between February 17 and 27 from 10:30 AM until 1:00 PM. Full Packages are just \$45 and include the Loveland ski lift ticket, event t-shirt, lunch, and a raffle ticket for the "Mountain Raffle."

Any additional questions or to make donations to this cause or to purchase event packages contact Jason Noelck at jnoelck@mines.edu.



at Arthur Lakes Library



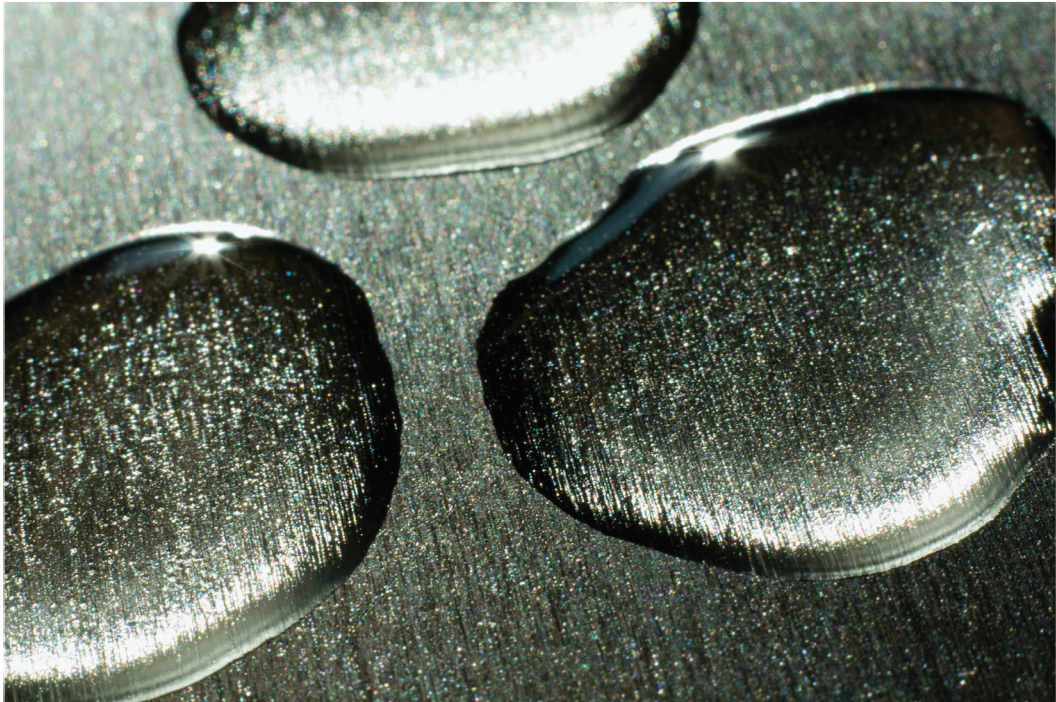
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~Henry Petroski



Campus benefactors: Simon Guggenheim

Andrew Ferguson
Staff Writer

Born on December 30, 1867, Simon Guggenheim was a noted philanthropist and senator for the State of Colorado. Guggenheim was born to Meyer, a Swiss immigrant, and Barbara Guggenheim in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended the Pierce Business School in Philadelphia before moving to Pueblo, Colorado in 1888 to join his father's mining and smelting operation, M. Guggenheim's Sons, as the chief ore buyer.

After becoming a multimillionaire, Guggenheim moved north to Denver in 1892 and married Olga Hirsh on November 24, 1898, at the iconic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. To celebrate their marriage, the Guggenheims provided a Thanksgiving dinner to 5,000 poor Manhattan children.

According to the November 25 edition of the New York Times, 1898, the dinner included “5,000 pounds of dressed turkey, ten barrels of potatoes, five barrels of cranberries, 100 boxes of oranges, twenty bunches of bananas, two barrels of pickles, 1,000

bunches of celery, 2,000 loaves of bread, and a cartload of ice cream and cake.

Simon and Olga made their residence in Denver and celebrated the birth of their first child, John, in 1905. To commemorate the event, Guggenheim made an \$80,000 donation to the Colorado School of Mines to build a namesake building. At the time, it was the largest private grant ever made to a state institution.

In 1907, Olga gave birth to their second son, George. That same year, Guggenheim was elected to the United States Senate for a single-term, but later chose not to seek reelection. During his time in Congress, one of his older brothers, Benjamin, died in the Titanic catastrophe. After his term expired, Guggenheim moved to New York.

After moving to New York, Guggenheim became involved with the American Smelting & Refining Company, first as a member of the board and later as the chairman. He was eventually elected as president of American Smelting & Refining in 1919.

In 1922, Guggenheim's first son, John, died of Mastoiditis just before leaving for college. In

memory of his son, Guggenheim established the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 1925. Originally given \$3 million, the foundation offered 50 fellowships in its first year for international study. Since then, the Foundation has granted over 15,000 Guggenheim Fellowships, worth almost a quarter of a billion dollars. The Foundation is one of Guggenheim's greatest legacies.

Tragedy struck again in 1939, when Guggenheim's second son, George, committed suicide in a Manhattan hotel at the age of 32. Two years later, Simon Guggenheim died in New York City on November 2, 1941.

One hundred and three years later, Guggenheim Hall continues to stand. Originally designed by James Murdoch, the cornerstone was placed by the Grand Lodge of Masons in 1905. The building opened the next year and housed the Geology Department as well as the Geological museum on the first floor. The second floor was dedicated to a library and administrative offices while the third floor contained a 700-seat auditorium.

In the 1960s, Guggenheim Hall was extensively renovated with \$252,000 by the State legislature in addition to a \$100,000 personal contribution from Mrs. Olga Guggenheim.

The gold domed cupola has been gilded at least three times, once in 1954, using leftover gold leaf from the when the Colorado State Capitol Building's gold dome was redone. It was also gilded again in 1988 with a contribution from the Class of 1987 and two gold bars from Amax; the most recent was in the summer of 2005.



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ANDREW FERGUSON / OREDIGGER

Music Review

Tell it to the Volcano. **Miniature Tigers**

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

Background

Phoenix band Miniature Tigers released two EP albums in 2008, **White Magic** and **Black Magic**, which were followed by the digital release of their full length album **Tell it to the Volcano** in late 2008 (February 17 is the projected hard copy release). Rolling Stone praised the band as “One of the best 25 bands on Myspace,” and Spin Magazine recognized the band as one of “The 9 Hottest New Bands Playing CMJ 2008.” Signed with Modern Art Records, Miniature Tigers, led by singer Charlie Brand, resemble The Beach Boys or The Beatles. Their sound embraces Hawaiian surf-pop and their lyrics are about longing for love and the pain and disappointment of love gone awry.

Forgettable Song

Rock bottom on this CD is “The Wolf,” a song that simply screams of absolute musical incompetence. The lyrics are mundane, repeating the same phrase, “Everybody’s looking at you/ everybody’s looking at you like they want to go home with you,” over and over and over again. The rest of the album remains in this vein, consistently disappointing with far too much repetition. Repeated lyrics are fine a couple of times but when they make up ninety percent of the song, it makes the track a complete disaster. The simplicity of the guitar and drums is comparable to any high school band’s capability with no more than three or four different chords played on guitar, and no more than the same number of different heads played on the drums.

Memorable Song

With very few bright spots on the album, the final track “Last Night’s Fake Blood” gives a glimmer of hope and offers a song that leaves the album with a somewhat less bitter taste. The track strays from the format of the previous few songs that had the chorus repeated ad nauseum, which turns out to be the only highlight of the track. The instrumentation stays the same with the acoustic playing the same three or so chords in the background and the same light hearted feel lends another repetitive element to the album.

In Closing

Tell it to the Volcano is an album that can appeal to certain listeners, but only a rare few. Fans of great bands like The Beach Boys and The Beatles will find this album absolutely appalling. While the legendary bands incorporated catchy tunes, memorable and more diverse lyrics with the same simple guitar and percussion in the background, their vocal talent and breath-taking harmonies were the focal point. People who do not like the surf style of music will absolutely abhor this album. Miniature Tigers has no better than mediocre vocals that often get drowned out by the less than interesting instrument lines in the background. This band lacks depth, musical talent, and any reason to listen to them. With many favorable reviews of the album, it might be a temptation to buy or even listen to this album. Don’t - it would be a devastating waste of time.



Beer Review: Warsteiner Premium Dunkel

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

World journeys are often jumbled and mixed. One continent to another, my beer review will hop around where my palate pleases unless others suggest the way at oredigger.net. This week we travel to the birthplace of modern beer, Germany, which has turned up a range of excellent beers, from great simple lagers to the wildest beer imaginable.

Warsteiner, hailing from slightly north of Munich-led Bavaria, is Germany’s largest privately owned brewery following the Bavarian brewing style. Classic German beers such as the Premium Verum call the Cramer family-owned Warsteiner brewery home. The Dunkel, Warsteiner’s second most popular brew, is a stable staple of German dark, lagering at 4.8% ABV.

Perfection comes with age. Time has tested Warsteiner’s process and it has released a well-marketed, widely available beverage to please most tastes. Not too heavy, not too weak, the Dunkel sits comfortably in the “good-beer-that-is-über-drinkable” zone.

Warsteiner claims no additives or adjunct grains, like rice or corn, entering the brewery’s process. Essentially, the Dunkel toes the malt-finished beer line with the impeccable precision of

a finely-tuned BMW.

A smooth, not syrupy, pour yields a mildly effervescent one-inch head. A raised glass offers a translucent dark brown with reddish hue. The carmeled, roasted flavors and smells are pleasant following the skunkiness of last week’s beer. Smell is slightly nutty, but finishes with malt vibes and a hint of sweetness that really hits upon tasting.

Malt tones are checked, however. This is no stout. This is no Guinness. Do not expect the same amount of smoothness or you will be disappointed. Instead, imagine a good pale lager with a much richer, malted barley flavor. However, the slightly overwhelming sweetness covers any errors in the brew and acts to distort a good impression of the ingredients.

The mouth feel is good with no bitter metallic aftertaste lurking after a healthy swig. This beer has a definite mildness

craved the world over and is praised for its drinkability. Whatever drinkability really means, you can finish a few of these comfortably even if the sweetness remains troublesome.

Descriptions such as well-balanced, malt-dominant, burnt, light-bodied, and adequately-carbonated fit the Dunkel. A classic take on bottom-fermented deliciousness, Warsteiner makes good beer which rarely disappoints anyone but the adventurous soul.



AKIRA RATTENBURY / OREDIGGER

Must See Movies

Romantic Comedies

Benjamin M. Weilert, Staff Writer

With Valentine’s Day this Friday, many people are wondering what to do with that special someone in their life. A common pastime of people in relationships has been to watch a movie together. However, the problem ensues of finding the best genre to watch while still being entertaining to both parties. This makes romantic comedies perfect for this situation. Guys are usually entertained by the comedy, while girls are entertained by the romance. In fact, even singles can enjoy the romantic comedy, due to its versatility and excellent writing (all three movies this week won Oscars for writing). This week’s Must See Movies highlights three movies that you could pop into your DVD player this Valentine’s Day.

1. Annie Hall (1977)

Woody Allen has been a staple name in the realm of comedies that it is no wonder that he would be associated with one of the best romantic comedies of all time. *Annie Hall* is about finding love in New York City, where most of his films are placed, and is perhaps Allen’s best film. Allen portrays writer Alvy Singer, who just cannot get over the relationship he had with aspiring actress, Annie Hall (Diane Keaton). Through some useful techniques, like breaking the fourth wall, the audience gets to see inside the heads of the characters. In terms of awards, the quality of the film speaks for itself. Not only did it win four Oscars in 1978, which included Best Actress for Diane Keaton, Best Director and Best Writing for Woody Allen, and the Best Picture Oscar, but it has placed at #35 on the American Film Institute’s (AFI) Top 100 Films of all time.

2. The Philadelphia Story (1940)

When a movie containing Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and James Stewart comes along, there is no doubt that it will be excellent. *The Philadelphia Story* does not disappoint on this aspect. Hepburn plays a rich woman who is about to be re-married. However, when a tabloid reporter (Stewart) and her ex-husband (Grant) show up, she begins to do a bit of soul searching. Somewhat reminiscent of *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), the cast works well together to produce quality comedy. *The Philadelphia Story* won an Oscar for its writing and also for James Stewart’s performance, earning him Best Actor. The latter of these two Oscars is obvious in the film, as Stewart gives one of the best drunk scenes ever seen in cinema. AFI has placed this film at #44 on its top 100 list.

3. It Happened One Night (1934)

The road trip has long been a common theme in cinema. *It Happened One Night* gives a look into the trip of Ellie Andrews (Claudette Colbert), who has boarded a bus in an attempt to re-unite with her husband, with whom she has just been married. Reluctantly, she accepts the help of an unemployed newspaper reporter, Peter Wayne (Clark Gable) on account of his threats to blackmail her by informing her father, who separated her from her husband in the first place. AFI put this film at #46 on its top 100 list, which seems a little low considering it won five Oscars: Best Writing, Best Director (for Frank Capra), Best Picture, Best Actress, and Best Actor, which was Clark Gable’s only Oscar.

For Homework – See City Lights (1931)

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Rock Band vs. Guitar Hero

Robert Gill and Benjamin Goertz
Staff Writers

The story of how Guitar Hero and Rock Band came to be enemies tells the tale of two companies, Red Octane and Harmonix. Harmonix Music Systems was a rhythm game developer that had an idea for a guitar-based game to be played on home systems. Red Octane decided to publish the game in 2005. They called it Guitar Hero. Red Octane and Harmonix continued to publish new versions of the game for 2 years.

The last game produced by the two was Guitar Hero Encore: Rock the 80's at the beginning of 2007. Around June of the same year, the two separated. Red Octane and the rights to the Guitar Hero series were sold to Activision while Harmonix was bought by MTV Games. Since Harmonix no longer had the rights to the Guitar Hero franchise but still wanted to create music based rhythm games, they created Rock Band and published it through Activision's rival, Electronic Arts.

Thus began the feud over which series was the better rhythm game. Though only a few other companies have tried to rival the two games, both Guitar Hero and Rock Band have had very successful shelf lives and sequels to keep the names going. The latest reincarnations of the titles, Guitar Hero: World Tour and Rock Band 2, came out relatively at the same time and feature full band game play.

Both games have a very expansive music library. In fact, some songs, such as "Everlong" by the Foo Fighters, appear in both games. Due to legality issues, the notes on the "fret highway" (the delivery system for players to see what note they need to play next), are different in each version of the song. Other songs that are in both games include "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor and "Float On" by Modest Mouse.

Also, both games offer a "no-fail" mode. In either game, when the player in unable to hit a certain amount of notes, they "fail" out of a song. In this mode, however,

their "health" will never fall below zero. Also, Guitar Hero features a new difficulty called Beginner Mode to serve players who have never picked up an instrument before. In Beginner Mode, all the player has to do is strum the guitar, smack the drums, or shout the words in order to score points.

What players immediately notice as different between the two games is the new slider mechanism on the improved Guitar Hero guitar. The touch sensitive pad can be used for a "wah-wah" effect for sustained notes or for "slap bass." Also, the pad is used for "catching" fast notes during parts of certain songs.

The drums for each game are designed differently. Rock Band has a 4-pad, one pedal system while Guitar Hero has a 3-pad, 2-symbol, 1 pedal system. However, both systems have their flaws. The Guitar Hero symbols tend to loosen up and the player has to constantly tighten them in order to maintain their accuracy and keep them from breaking. The Rock Band drum pads extend significantly further out for the base when compared to the Guitar Hero drums. This leads to the drums falling apart after significant usage.

Where Rock Band outperforms Guitar Hero is in the full band aspect of the genre. In terms of single instruments, both games offer an enjoyable challenge to the gamer (with the Guitar Hero team's experience aiding them in this aspect). When playing as a full band, Rock Band offers a greater sense of teamwork. The interface is geared towards cooperation. With the exception of the highways, every meter is shared by the band. In contrast, the presentation of the band member's "health" in Guitar Hero gives the player a much more individualist feel rather than a band feel.

Guitar Hero is also a lot less forgiving to the band than Rock Band is. In Rock Band, if one player fails out of a song, then his band mates can bring him back in if they have collected enough bonuses. In Guitar Hero, if one band member fails, the entire band fails.

After all this, both games still

have their own unique styles and audiences that they cater to. The Guitar Hero franchise has already expanded to the portable gaming market with their On Tour series and has started the newest trend of band-based rhythm games. The first attempt was Guitar Hero: Aerosmith, which featured the likeness of the band and some of their best songs playable only on guitar. The next installment announced is Guitar Hero: Metallica, which is to include full band capability and updated graphics.

Harmonix has also started to release its own band based games in the form of Track Packs. The first band to have their own pack was ACDC featuring one of their live performances on a playable disc. Harmonix has also acquired the rights to create a full band based game slated for release in late 2009. This is to be a separate game not carrying the Rock Band name featuring The Beatles and the greatest hits from the group.

Although both have taken similar approaches to a very specific genre of video games, Guitar Hero and Rock Band have been able to distance themselves enough to make each unique from the other. Some prefer the lead rifts of Guitar Hero, while others enjoy the variety of Rock Band. Whatever the choice, both provide excellent music and good times with friends for which there is no comparison.



BENJAMIN GOERTZ / OREDIGGER

Movie Review:The Great Silence

Greg Davies
Staff Writer

During the 1960s, the Italian director Sergio Leone and actor Clint Eastwood made a series of westerns which completely redefined the genre and gave rise to a new sub-genre of "spaghetti westerns." Whereas American westerns tended to contain extremely straightforward conflicts between good and evil, Leone's movies featured Eastwood as a morally ambiguous bounty hunter who was more concerned about money than ethical concerns. The dramatic success of these films spawned numerous imitations, with other Italian directors attempting to duplicate the style that made Leone successful. The most accomplished of these imitators was Sergio Corbucci, who made his name for films such as *Django*, which pushed the violence and moral ambiguity even further than Leone's films. Corbucci's greatest accomplishment however, is *The Great Silence*, which may be the only spaghetti western to match the quality of Leone's Dollar Trilogy.

The Great Silence is set in a snow-covered Utah landscape where a desperate group of innocent outlaws are brutally hunted down by a group of bounty hunters, led by the psychopathic Tigrero (Klaus Kinski). A mute gunfighter known as Silence (Jean-Louis Trintignant) comes to the defense of the impoverished outlaws, taking bounties from them to kill the bounty hunters.

Possibly the most noteworthy aspect of this film is the setting. Unlike most westerns, which typically have generic dusty settings, the snowy setting dominates every scene in the film and adds greatly to the already bleak atmosphere. The constant snow and cold acts as a tangible force, driving the refugee outlaws to desperation and forcing all the characters to constantly struggle to keep themselves and their guns warm enough to function. The weather makes the outlaws' fight for survival desperate enough that they are willing to rob the sheriff just so that they can steal his horse and eat it. In addition to affecting the plot, the snowy landscape allows for incredible cinematography, as stunningly beautiful landscape shots occur in nearly every scene.

The Great Silence's harsh, unforgiving setting is complemented

perfectly by the equally harsh mood. Silence, despite having nearly superhuman gun fighting skills, is an extremely vulnerable protagonist, scarred both literally and figuratively by the bounty hunters who killed his father and slashed his vocal cords as a child. In this way, Silence subverts the western archetype of the quiet nameless protagonist, exposing vulnerability underneath the calm exterior. By contrast, Tigrero is a villain with a genuine enjoyment of life who will kill anyone for his own benefit and consistently triumphs in every situation. Klaus Kinski, most famous for his starring role in *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*, conveys ruthless insanity better than any other actor, and in *The Great Silence* he manages to appear charming and likable while remaining completely unsympathetic. Unlike most westerns in which the villains have a lower social standing than the heroes, the villains in *The Great Silence* have all the power and prestige, while the good guys are starving outcasts. The mood is further enhanced by the music from composer Ennio Morricone, who also composed the music for Sergio Leone's westerns. The music is somewhat minimalist compared to Morricone's work on the Dollars Trilogy, and as a result, effectively conveys a bleak atmosphere. *The Great Silence* is also noteworthy for the way it ends. Without giving too much away, it is sufficient to say that the ending defies expectations while bringing the film to its most logical resolution. The film's ending does not do anything to pander to the audience's desire for moral satisfaction, but instead maintains the bleak, nihilistic atmosphere which characterizes the rest of the film. In fact, the ending was bleak enough that Corbucci was required to film an alternative happy ending for release in certain international markets. The contrast between the two endings makes for a highly amusing example of what can happen when directors and producers have conflicting interests, and also makes the grimness of the original ending slightly more bearable.

The Great Silence is easily the best non-Leone spaghetti western ever made, and should be seen by anyone with an interest in the genre, as long as they can withstand the movie's oppressively bleak atmosphere and depressing ending.

Cooking Corner Spaghetti-in-a-Skillet

Ian Littman
Staff Writer

If you want a quick but highly edible supper for one, try Spaghetti-in-a-Skillet. The recipe, though the steps can barely classified as such, may elicit odd looks from mothers across the country, but it works if you're just preparing a meal for yourself. Note that this recipe is best cooked "by feel." Do not stress over the exact quantities of ingredients; this one is pretty hard to get wrong.

Ingredients:
Spaghetti (Safeway is the cheapest in town... two pounds for around \$1.79)
Spices (I use cayenne, a general spice mix and a Cajun mix, but your tastes may vary)
Olive oil
Parmesan cheese or spaghetti sauce (of course)

Tools:

Skillet
Fork
Stove
Strainer (optional but may make your life a bit easier)

Steps (prep time, 10 minutes or so):
Grab six to twelve ounces of spaghetti, depending on how hungry you are.
Break the spaghetti in half so it'll fit in the skillet (spaghetti goes in the skillet at this point).
Fill the skillet with enough water to cover the spaghetti and then some. Two-third to three-quarters full should work.
Turn on your stove and set the heat on high. Place your spaghetti-in-a-skillet on the burner.
Add a little olive oil to start with. Stir the spaghetti (here's where the fork comes in) every minute or two.
Once most of the water is boiled off from your spaghetti (but the spaghetti is still submerged) add whatever spices you want.

Stir as needed.
Right before the spaghetti ceases to be submerged due to water boiling off, grab the skillet and turn off the burner.
If you have a strainer, pour your spaghetti in. Otherwise, drain off the water, using the fork to keep your spaghetti out of the sink.
Pour the spaghetti (with aid from the fok) onto a waiting plate. Add sauce and parmesan as needed.
Quick tip: if you have an electric stove, if you're quick, you can pour your spaghetti sauce into a bowl, then use the residual heat from your spaghetti burner to heat the sauce while you're pouring your spaghetti.
If you're pulling your hair out over the lack of exact specifications for this meal, I apologize; it's easier than it sounds. Want more nutrition? Salad will do the trick. Still, spaghetti-in-a-skillet beats Top Ramen any day of the week!

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“Big Brother” and its quest to run your life

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Staff Writer

The United States government is the largest and most wasteful company in the world. It has been run so poorly over the past century that it barely survives today, carrying a \$10-trillion debt load and relying on crumbling infrastructure. And yet, the biggest flaw with the US lives on: it is still supremely confident that only it knows the best way to run the world.

Somewhere along the line, our incredibly arrogant government decided that it wasn't going to live up to the promise of America. Instead, it was going to do everything it could to force its citizens to live a certain way. You see, the USA was going to keep people “safe,” and hold a moral high ground, and attempt to eradicate those who would not comply.

Over the history of our country, some men decided that power was more important than liberty and freedom. They actually conducted witch hunts of sorts, manufacturing mass hysteria to obtain whatever they wanted. In these cases, the country eventually saw the light, but not before a trampling of American values ensued and citizens shamed.

Governments will always tell you that they know best, because saying so is a vital part of each country's propaganda battle. I would strongly contest this point, because it is very apparent to me that the only thing government knows how to do is to preserve

power for itself. While it is easy to focus on the ignorance and stupidity of some individuals, I believe that every person knows what is best for themselves, and that no person really knows what is best for anyone else.

In fact, I happen to think that when a group or individual forces influence on another in an attempt to change actions and control decisions it has a disastrous effect both on public safety and on quality of life.

“Big Brother” thinks that he can actually eliminate an activity and the people who practice it, but he is wrong. History does not lie. It tells us that the banning of an activity tends to create crime and violence while not affecting the occurrence and making life in general more unsafe.

Consider the prohibition of alcohol in this country. A bootleg industry was created, organized crime was provided with a foothold to establish operations in America, prices shot up, criminals made gobs of money, and people kept drinking. It was so damaging and ineffective that it was repealed by constitutional amendment.

What would a world be like where individuals were allowed to live in peace, independent of one another, without interference from a power-hungry control structure? It would obviously be a Utopian place, but could it work?

What would happen if we stopped conducting the ineffective money-drain otherwise known as

the “War on Drugs?” What would happen if citizens stopped focusing on how others lived their lives and instead focused on what actually affects them? What would happen if our government actually served a useful role instead of telling us how to live?

I believe the one and only role of government is to provide an adequate foundation for people to live their lives. While this is a broad description, it implies several things. Among them, government has no place regulating the individual choices that people make. It only has to provide a basic structure for life, and mediate when one entity commits an action that harms another.

Ideally, there would be no public investment in activities that feed the power-hungry ego trips of the self-righteous. Trying to save people from themselves is an utter waste of time and money and a violation of civil liberties.

Trying to better the lives of others may be admirable, but forcing certain ways of life on those who do not want them is unethical and improper. Every person has every right to live their lives in the manner they choose, providing that they respect and do not harm the ability of others to choose their own lives.

The government wastes its time and resources on enforcing bans in a sad attempt to exert control on peoples' lives. Resources could be focused on preventing actual harm instead of conducting operations with the intent of wielding power over citizens.

Cultural Diversities

The sick side of paying bride price

Georges M. Ngonyani
Staff Writer

In my previous article, which was about “The secrets for paying bride price,” I discussed three strong points in favor of paying bride price. These are thanksgiving to the bride's family, relationship building between the groom's and the bride's family, and the need for the husband to create a sense of care to his wife.

Even though this practice has positive intentions, there are situations where bride price has created problems – I call these problems as the sick side of it. The following are some of such problems.

One, men from poor families fail to marry due to their inability to pay bride price. Others have not been able to marry when they want since they have to struggle for a long time to find bride price.

Men's maltreatment to women is the second problem. Sometimes men misinterpret the rationality of bride price by looking at it as a payment rather than

a sign of thanksgiving, hence treating women as commodities. Many women have been humiliated because of this practice. For instance, you can hear men telling their wives, “I bought you, so you should serve me.” In other words, some men have been using bride price as a reason to exalt themselves and look at women as downtrodden marriage participants.

Another is that it forces the wives to tolerate the intolerable. In this practice, if a woman has to propose a marriage break-

Some men have been using bride price as a reason to exalt themselves and look at women as downtrodden marriage participants.

down due to the problems caused by a man, then the bride's family will have to return the bride price to the groom's family. This in most cases becomes difficult due to the fact that the bride's parents will have used the wealth paid for their daughter and might have no other means to make it returned. Therefore, the wife will have to tolerate living with the husband who acts as thorns to her. This adds other problems when the husband dies, as the wife will have to be remarried in the same clan by a relative of the deceased hus-

band. In implementing remarriage, the woman can either be given several choices to decide who she wants to marry or the elders in the clan can decide for her. This practice has been accused as being the reason for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

There are many examples to be given in this matter, but let me conclude by stating that although paying bride price is treated as one of the major requirements for a marriage to materialize, its insistence is becoming less everyday due to the existence of women movements to demand their rights. My projection is that within a couple of years, the practice will remain a small piece of history in *The Oredigger* newspaper. As with inheriting widows, HIV/AIDS has been the pioneer for the change in addition to women's rights movements. On the other hand, despite the good reasons existing towards paying bride price, misinterpretation of the idea has been the reason for all these problems.

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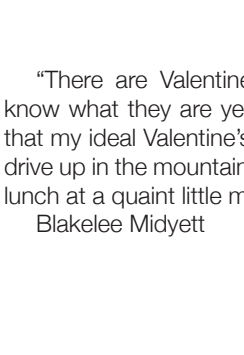


Minds at Mines

Valentine's Day

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

Every February it seems as though a paranormal storm of little hearts, pink doilies, and diamond commercials sweeps through towns all over the nation. Small children choose favorite characters for Valentine's Day cards and older boys take their sweethearts out for a night on the town. Candy hearts are used to communicate those oh so sweet messages like “Be Mine,” “Kiss,” and “Love You.” Young love plucks up the courage to ask that crush out to the movies where palms are checked for sweat before holding hands. Like the card companies and the candy isle, Minds at Mines has fallen for the sugar-brushed holiday. The female students, faculty, and staff at Mines (rare though they may be), reflected on Valentine's Day plans, and pondered what would make that perfect date. Gentlemen, the ladies here at Mines have provided a study guide, and it's called “plans we are looking forward to this Valentine's Day.” Don't worry; there will be no exam over this material.



“There are Valentine's Day plans; I just don't know what they are yet. But I have to say, I think that my ideal Valentine's Day date would be a long drive up in the mountains. Then we could stop for lunch at a quaint little mountain café.”

Blakelee Midyett



“My date this year is probably going to be held over the phone. We'll talk and watch an online movie together, mostly because he's seven hundred miles away in Arizona. My advice to the boys here at Mines is to get creative. Girls don't just want a typical date on Valentine's Day; it's one of those days that should be different. So do it. Be different, get creative.”

Sam Poupore



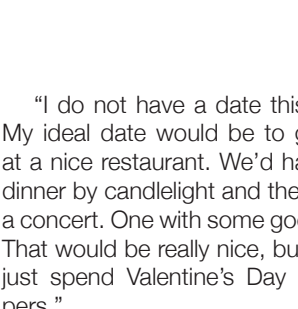
“Wow. I guess I never really thought about an ideal date for Valentine's Day. I think that what I would really like is a home cooked meal. And a massage. But really, it's Mines. Who couldn't use a massage with all this stress?”

Holly Lease



“I have a Valentine's Day date this year. We are going to go out for dinner at a Mexican restaurant because Mexican food is his favorite. The plan is pretty simple, we are going to go out for dinner and just have some fun.”

Samantha Hart



“I do not have a date this Valentine's Day. My ideal date would be to go out to dinner at a nice restaurant. We'd have a nice quiet dinner by candlelight and then maybe go to a concert. One with some good jazz music. That would be really nice, but I'll probably just spend Valentine's Day grading papers.”

Charlotte Root



ALL PHOTOS ROBY BROST / OREDIGGER

The ghost of Nevadaville Steelers triumph at last minute

Sarah McMurray
Staff Writer

It's a testament to the thoroughness of Google Maps that Nevadaville, CO came up the first time I searched for it without any confusion. Google effortlessly traced a direct path from my house to the elusive ghost town, 38 minutes away. About an hour later, however, I was seriously questioning Google's wisdom (and not for the first time) in directing me up a dirt road with a bright red and white sign telling me not to enter.

Well what could I do? I entered, of course.

I have a long and distinguished history of entering (but not breaking).

Wild and strange spaces, be they rural or urban,

sing me their siren's song. As a child on my grandmother's acreage, I used to hide from my little brother by climbing up into a dark, brushy, sideways leaning tree. The freedom of it all caused me to rejoice by taking all my clothes off and intermittently running up and down the trunk, or sleeping in the tree. My fantastical hideaway fell apart, however, when I came down with a poison oak infestation over every inch of my body.

But if I let setbacks like that deter me, I'd never get anywhere. I've hunted through abandoned apartment buildings in Florida, scaled shingle factories in Cleveland, invaded a burned down slaughterhouse in Tennessee, and evaded the pope's guards in Vatican City. Surely, you understand that a ghost of a mining town nestled in the beautiful Rockies must be seen.

I'd heard they're disappearing. People are taking souvenirs with them until nothing is left. My camera and I felt some urgency.

So, we, along with my trusty Google directions, set off. I couldn't get over the majesty of the mountains. As I was ruminating on the desolate wilderness, the poetry of Robert Service, you can imagine my surprise to suddenly find myself driving through a giant strip mall of casinos! Black Hawk. I was so taken aback that

I didn't realize I was supposed to turn somewhere and consequently, found myself turning around on some dirt entrance road, trying to call a friend to take another look at the Google directions for me.

Thank goodness for road atlases! Even if amazing GPS technology should ever become affordable for me, it just can't fully replace the reliability of a piece of paper. My phone had lost reception, and I realized whatever Google was calling the road was not what Black Hawk was calling the road I needed to turn on. They were calling it Black Hawk Road. Go figure.

Having left Black Hawk and winding my way through Central City, I found myself asking myself

just why a town about the size of a muffin, feels the need to

change the name of the road I'm driving on about four times in less than three minutes. I'm sure they had very good reasons. And it was about this time I found myself surreptitiously entering the wrong portion of the road.

Following its winding way, I soon came upon what I was seeking - Nevadaville. Founded in 1859 after John Gregory struck gold, the town had about 4000 residents. In 1998, they had six. I'm not sure what they had in the winter of 2009. I didn't see a living resident. Most of the town was for sale, owned by a couple from Denver. Allegedly, they come down on summer weekends to open the General Store. The only souls I saw were a few slow driving cars of old people, seeing the sights.

The vestiges of the town stand in various states of disrepair. The Masons Lodge #14 was also founded in 1859 and seems to be one of the only buildings still in use. The City Hall/Fire Dept. was locked up but still standing. The name of the town was hand painted on a broken off piece of concrete lying on the side of the road. One of the most fascinating remains was of old stone walls everywhere up and down the mountain side where 4000 residents used to live.

And then, there were the "keep

out" signs - hand painted signs on bits of wood, stuck all over.

Now, no one seems to take me seriously when I say this or even thinks I follow my own advice but, my first rule of exploring anywhere is, be careful. You don't know who may already be sleeping there when you arrive. Places are not always as abandoned as they look. If a red light is blinking and it isn't on the ceiling, it's probably a motion detector. Barbed wire not only hurts, but you should get a tetanus shot. And people put signs up for reasons.

Your job, friendly explorer, is to figure out what those reasons are. Is it a sign controlling a non-existent traffic pattern, or is it a warning sign of some danger? The sheer numbers of signs, posted right on top of one another gave me the feeling that the sign maker was serious, and so I began to drift elsewhere in town.

Trailing down to the remnants of a stone building, the remains of a tiny egg shaped trailer caught my eye. From the vantage point of the trailer, I was drawn onto the site of a dilapidated bridge. Never step on the bridge, folks. Never step under the bridge. For that matter, never step into the snow. Step only where you can see the ground, and even then, be careful.

From the bridge, I picked my path over to the machinery. For some of us, the sight of massive, decaying machinery always feels fresh; no matter what the machine may have done in its life, it feels familiar. The huge, iron strength rotting dormant where it was abandoned moves something in us, both compassionate and respectful.

I dutifully recorded the scene, the site where once there was something people wanted very much. Getting home was no trouble.

But only in investigating this story afterward did I learn the meaning of the "keep out" signs. Someone with a local connection to the city, Ron McFarland, posted "DO NOT GO NEAR THE MINE SHAFTS!! The edges tend to cave in that area due to the pulverized granite sides, and you could end up at the bottom 3 - 500 feet down - DEAD!"

Happy exploring, fellow travelers. Be careful.

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

If championships are the sole measure of success, the Pittsburgh Steelers are the greatest franchise in NFL history. By a score of 27-23, the Steelers won their sixth Super Bowl in an epic fashion.

The game started out with a quirky call, with the Arizona Cardinals winning the starting coin toss, but electing to defer possession until the second half. It was just another unconventional call in an unconventional season for the Cardinals.

The Steelers took the ball and made a quick drive to the red zone. On the goal line at third and goal, Ben Roethlisberger tried to sneak the ball into the end zone, and at first, it appeared he scored. But upon a coach's challenge, Roethlisberger was ruled down and Pittsburgh had to settle for a field goal.

The rest of the first half saw both teams trade touchdowns before costly mistakes changed the game's momentum near the end of the half. With a little over two minutes left, Ben Roethlisberger had one of his passes tipped at the line and picked off by linebacker Karlos Dansby. This gave Arizona possession at Pittsburgh's 34-yard line.

Warner and his crew took advantage of this favorable field position by driving the ball down to the goal line with 15 seconds left in the half. The next play, quarterback Kurt Warner tried to throw a quick pass to Anquan Boldin, but it was intercepted by James Harrison, the defensive player of the year, and taken from one end zone to another for a touchdown as time expired. It was the longest play in Super Bowl history. Harrison's play turned a likely Cardinals lead into a 10 point deficit going to the half.

After a third quarter field goal, the Steelers took a 20-7 lead into the fourth quarter. With their backs to the wall, the Cardinals mounted a comeback. Only at this point did Warner start to utilize his star wide receiver, Larry Fitzgerald. They connected four times for 31 yards and

a touchdown on one drive in the middle of the fourth. This narrowed the game to 20-14.

After forcing a three and out by Pittsburgh, the Cardinals got the ball back and made another drive before stalling at Pittsburgh's 36-yard line. The Cardinals punted and pushed the Steelers back to their own 1-yard line. Three plays later, Pittsburgh was called for holding while in their own endzone, resulting in a safety. After the Cardinals got their two points and the ball back, it did not take long for the team to capitalize upon the situation. Warner connected with Fitzgerald again on second down, resulting in a 64-yard touchdown, giving the Cardinals their first Super Bowl lead ever at 23-20.

This left the Steelers with a three point deficit, 2:30 left on the game clock, and 78 yards to go. The Steelers offense had not been too dynamic all game, but they stepped up when it counted. Roethlisberger connected with wide receiver Santonio Holmes three times for 67 yards to drive the ball into the red zone. Even though Holmes was obviously Big Ben's go-to guy on the drive, the Cardinals were not able to provide ample coverage on the man. This lack of adaptability of the Cardinals led to Holmes making one last highlight-reel catch at the side of the end zone for the game-winning touchdown. The play held up upon review while Holmes lay on the sideline with the ball still in his hand as he was swarmed by teammates. Surprisingly, Roethlisberger later admitted on the Late Show with David Letterman that he thought the pass was going to be an interception.

Holmes' last minute excellence led to him getting the Super Bowl XLIII most valuable player award. The award lets Holmes into an elite group of wide receivers, including his teammate Hines Ward and NFL legend Jerry Rice, who have received that honor. As the clock ran out, the NFL's model franchise left the field with just one more trophy to add to their already impressive collection.



SARAH MCMURRAY / OREDIGGER

Hand painted Keep Out signs are posted all over sections of Nevadaville.

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2010 probowl location preview

Hawaii not exotic enough

Mike Stone
Travel Guide

The 2009 NFL Pro Bowl went off without a hitch. The season is over and the Super Bowl Champions have had a few days to recover from their binges so, the NFL sends players and coaches from all over the league down to Hawaii for relaxation and an exhibition game. AFC vs. NFC, reporters dressed in tropical shirts, no John Madden mumbling about Brett Favre; they pull out all the stops. 2009 also marks the end of Hawaii University's contract with the NFL commission. The location for 2010 is still in debate.

Following the lead of American pop culture, the NFL is taking a look at television shows that really get people's attention. To be more specific, shows like Man vs. Wild, Survivor Man, and Deadliest Catch; essentially anything on the Discovery channel not during shark week. In these shows, men are put up to risky and sometimes deadly challenges in the fiercest environments known to man. Cold, hunger, and wild animals are just a few of the elements they have to face. The NFL commission thinks these environments are what their teams are capable of competing in.

"Our players get it easy," says NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. "They get two weeks off before the Super Bowl, the game is in Florida so there's no bad weather, and they get paid millions of dollars to catch a ball. We might as well test their strengths to see if

they can really survive like Survivor man and not just pretend like Man vs. Wild. That's why we're looking at two locations: Alaska and Costa Rica.

In the Alaskan wilderness, the 2010 Pro Bowl will get a few new challenges. First, players will have to hike three days through snow covered mountains and forests just to get to the field. Next, the field will be lengthened to 300 yards and will go uphill both ways. Finally, two days before players arrive, five polar bears and 25 wolves will be released on the grounds after being deprived of food for a week. "It should be a good challenge. I'm really looking forward to it," said the always optimistic Peyton Manning. Where Alaska offers deadly animals and environments, Costa Rica will offer a different kind of challenge.

Costa Rica is one of the top five producers of Cocaine. This is why the entire field in the 2010 Pro Bowl will be covered with needles and cocaine. "We will finally see who has been passing their drug tests by honesty and

who has been sneaking by," revealed Goodell.

What is more, all players will be stripped of their wallets and will have to sneak across many borders to get down to South America. Drug dealers are sure to be a problem as they will most likely kidnap the players and hold them for ransom. "It's a reverse immigration technique. I'm really looking forward to it," said the always optimistic Peyton Manning. Costa Rica will put players in trouble with the law and drugs. It will be a true test of their athletic capabilities.

As to which location the NFL will choose, it is up to you. Fans are encouraged to visit www.NFL.com and cast their vote for Alaska or Costa Rica. The choice is being marketed as "Two very different locations with two very different challenges." There couldn't be a better way to take the heroes of America's youth and bring them back down to our level. "I'm going to go vote right now. I'm really looking forward to it," said the always optimistic Peyton Manning.



MIKE STONE / OREDIGGER

2010 Pro Bowl- Artist rendering of potential hazards and player shock.

Mines to offer algebra I & II

Janeen Neri
2x5=11

Campus officials have decided to modify CSM's general education requirements, replacing Chemistry I and II with Algebra I and II. Math professor Steve Lurkins, part of the interdisciplinary advisory on the switch says, "[The math and computer science department has] been pushing for this for a long time. It's time we acknowledged that requiring students to take a pre-algebra class severely diminishes our reputation as an engineering school. The very least we can do is set the cutoff at Algebra I."

The MACS department has, in fact, been quietly suggesting the upgrade for over a decade, but school officials had pushed it aside on the grounds that over 99% of

engineering colleges have introductory chemistry in their general requirements. After years of being ignored, the MACS department was ready to drop the idea when Kevin Odell, a Mines alumnus, offered to donate an undisclosed amount of money if CSM would "Ask the students for one general education course they would like to skip, and remove it from the required courses."

A quick survey of the student body produced clear results. "Chemistry," said sophomore Malcolm Newton, "There were times I wanted to strangle myself with chains of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in that class. I mean, yeah, the information about molecules and quantum stuff was way cool, but the math was so cruelly repetitive and nitpicky that I almost lost the will to live."

Freshman Christopher Matthews added, "I'd at least like to be at the point in chemistry where Schrödinger's equations are no longer dismissed as 'beyond the scope of this course.'" Not surprisingly, the universally beloved Physics and Liberal Arts and International studies sequences were not mentioned by any students.

The overwhelming response prompted school officials to take action and, after some deliberation between the chemistry and MACS departments, general chemistry is to be transferred to the MACS department and relabeled as algebra beginning in the fall 2009 semester. "I think many students will be excited about this," said Lurkins, "because, it means most students coming in can transfer in a couple of their

Career Fair to be the most funnest ever...est

Hailed as the Best Show on Earth

Benjamin M. Weilert
Perpetually unemployed

The Career Center has been anxiously anticipating the spring Career Fair that will take place this Tuesday. "We've been planning this since the fall, and we think we've gotten all the kinks worked out," remarked Career Center head, Hugh Gettajawb, "The companies are finally coming here for the right reasons."

In the past, the Career Fair has been a place where companies come to promote themselves and to pick up potential employees from the CSM student body. This spring, however, will be a different kind of Career Fair. "I'm looking forward to this Career Fair," commented sophomore, Flippa Berger, "It's going to be a lot more fun than they used to."

The companies involved in the event hold the same sentiments, "In years past, we've given out internships and jobs to the people who won at our booths. This year we're handing out large stuffed animals. It's so much easier this way," said Shell CEO, Frank Disregard.

Many of the companies will be providing the services that normally went to the Career Center and Aramark. For instance, the food for the day will be provided by FritoLay. Trimble Navigation will be putting up "You Are Here" signs with maps of all the booths spread out through the Student Recreation Center. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has agreed to set up the weight training room in the Rec Center with electricity generating stationary bicycles to power the event. Security for the event will be taken care of by Sierra Detention Systems.

In terms of games, many companies have taken their specialties and put them to more entertaining purposes. For instance, the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be putting on a shooting gallery with all the biggest names in terrorism as the targets. The Missile Defense Agency has brought in a few old-school gaming cabinets so that attendees to their booth may play the classic game, Missile Command. Perhaps the game most people are looking forward to is the Halliburton "Whack a Seal" booth. "These seals look just like the real thing!" exclaimed a Career Center employee at the demo for the booth late last fall.

Still, the biggest attractions for the career fair will be the rides. The spaceship ride will be taken care of by Lockheed Martin and Ball Aerospace. Also, Sandvick Mining and Construction will be in charge of the "Tunnel of Love." For those more interested in controlling their rides, the Kansas Department of Transportation will be putting on a Go Kart track at the upper level gym.

Outside on the IM fields, La-farge will have a multi-purpose Ferris wheel/Cement Mixer. Finally, the Environmental Protection Agency will have a Carousel with a variety of extinct animals that have been killed due to environmental negligence.

Some of the events that will take place during the day will include the Denver Water Department's Dunk Tank and the Powertech (a near-term uranium producer) freak show. Prizes for the Career Fair will range from large plastic novelty combs to large stuffed animals. Due to the condition of the economy, no jobs will be given to anyone.



2X+2=8
What is X?

X=3

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